

REMARKS

Claims 15-18, 20-25, and 27-28 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 19 and 26 have been cancelled, their subject matter being incorporated into independent claims 15 and 22, respectively. Additionally, claims 15, 17-18, 20-22, 24-25, and 27-28 have been amended. The amendments to the claims are believed to present no new matter.

In the present Office Action, claims 15-18 and 22-25 were rejected, and claims 19-21 and 26-28 were objected to as being allowable except for being dependent on rejected claims. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and objections presented in the present Office Action for the following reasons:

The Declaration was objected to as being defective. The Applicants submit with this amendment another Declaration that is believed to be in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.67(a). Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

The present Office Action also asked that a substitute specification be filed. However, as will be discussed below, the amendments to the claims are believed to place the application in condition for allowance and, thus, no further amendments to the specification are needed to be made. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that this requirement be withdrawn. Notwithstanding, if the Examiner still requires a substitute specification, the Applicants will submit such a document.

Claims 15-28 have been objected to due to numerous formalities listed on pages 3 and 4 of the present Office Action. The amendments to the claims made in this amendment are believed to address and resolve these objections.

Claims 15-18 and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bud et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,598,407) in view of *Ketseoglou et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,130,886). Without commenting on the merits of this rejection, the Applicants submit that remaining claims 15-18, 20-25, and 27-28 are allowable over the prior art of record as independent claims 15 and 22 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled claims 19 and 26, which were indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the claims have been overcome.

In light of the forgoing comments, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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